vity in these four States. The State Governments and Government of India have taken note of these recommendations and under different Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, as also State Plan Schemes. Efforts are being made to increase agricultural production and productivity in these four States. These four States have included provisions in the Seventh Plan on major, medium and minor irrigation, flood control drainage, etc. More particularly, under different Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes as also State Plan Schemes, efforts are being made to increase agricultural production and productivity in the four States of Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

Under Special Rice Production Programme introduced as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the Seventh Plan and under Small and Marginal Farmers' Scheme continuing from Sixth Plan, concrete steps are being taken in this regard. Under Special Rice Production Programme, in 102 Blocks of Uttar Pradesh funds have been provided ranging from Rs. 1.50 lakh to Rs. 3 lakhs per Block in 1986-87 for improvement of drainage/field channels at 100 per cent subsidy. For improving agricultural production and productivity in the Project Blocks, supply of inputs like seed, fertiliser, micro-nutrients, pesticides, farm implements and plant protection equipment at subsidised rates have been programmed in these four States. Under the Small and Marginal Farmers Scheme which is implemented in each Block in the country, funds are provided to these four States for minor irrigation works including ground water exploitation, land development and distribution of minikits for oilseeds, pulses and coarse grains at the rate of Rs. 5 lakh per Block annually, shared equally by State Government and Government of India.

Distribution and utilisation of Central Funds at block level

638. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to form monitoring cells to go into the mode of distribution and utilisation of Central Funds in 50 selected blocks all over the country;

(b) if so, whether the blocks have been selected so far; and

(c) whether any advance work has been completed in this regard and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture is not considering formation of cells to go into the mode of distribution and utilisation of Central funds in selected blocks. However, a concurrent evaluation of IRD Programme has been started by Government of India since October, 1985. For this purpose, data/information are being collected every month from about 72 blocks of 36 districts on a random rotating sample basis. The main findings of the surveys upto April, 1986 have been brought out. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to take appropriate action on the findings.

639. [*Transferred to the 29th July, 1986*].

Conference of Ministers on National Water Policy

640. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Southern regional conference of irri-